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C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 08727

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MASS, EAID, PREL, ES
SUBJ: PRESIDENT DUARTE'S LETTERS TO CONGRESSIONAL
LEADERS

1. WHEN I SAW PRESIDENT DUARTE AFTERNOON JULY 27, HE GAVE ME COPIES OF TEXTS OF IDENTICAL LETTERS WHICH HE HAD JUST SIGNED TO CONGRESSMEN WRIGHT, WHITTEN AND LONG. PRESIDENT REMAINS CONCERNED THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE RECEIVE AS HIGH A PRIORITY AS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND HOPES THESE LETTERS WILL BE USEFUL IN MAKING THESE POINTS CLEAR. HE IS SENDING ORIGINAL SIGNED COPIES OF THESE LETTERS IN THE MAIL.
2. BEGIN TEXT:

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY THANKS FOR THE CORDIAL DISCUSSION WE HAD TUESDAY, JULY 25. AFTER MY RETURN TO NEW YORK, I FOUND SOME PRESS REPORTS SUGGESTING I DID NOT UNDERLINE STRONGLY ENOUGH THE VITAL ROLE THAT THE SECURITY PART PLAYS IN THE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES TO EL SALVADOR. TO PREVENT ANY MISUNDERSTANDING, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE WHAT I SAID AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING: THE PROBLEM IN EL SALVADOR IS BOTH MILITARY AND ECONOMIC. THUS, WE ARE STRUGGLING TO PRESERVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS AND PREVENT THE SUCCESS OF CUBAN-BACKED GUERRILLAS ALL AT THE SAME TIME. AS A RESULT, EL SALVADOR URGENTLY NEEDS BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY CAN PREVAIL IN CENTRAL AMERICA IF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONS OF THE WORLD ASSIST US TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND MAKE ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

WITH APPRECIATION FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT, I
REMAIN, CORDIALLY YOURS

S/ ING. JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

JULY 27, 1984.

END TEXT.

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PAGE 002

NC 4785283

TOR: 280047Z JUL 84

3. XEROXED COPIES OF SIGNED TEXT BEING SENT TO ARA/CEN
BY POUCH.

PICKERING
END OF MESSAGE

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